

ITEM 12
BILL 69 (2013)

From: mike@islandrecreation.net [mike.islandrecreation@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 2:04 AM
To: Kobayashi, Ann; Fukunaga, Carol A; schang@honolulu.gov; kpine@honolulu.gov; Martin, Ernie; Menor, Ron; Manahan, Joey;

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2014 JAN 14 AM 8:37

Subject: Bill 69 testimony

Aloha Council members,

I writing you to urge you to consider the following potential long term ramifications of passing Bill 69.

1. See attached photo or go to this link <http://www.freethoughtaction.org/2009/08/atheists-target-des-moines-with-godless.html> and see what is happening with bus billboards in Iowa. Under the first amendment, it has already been proven in the courts in other cities across the country that the city will NOT be able to legally decide what is tasteful and what is not. There could not be a clearer cut first amendment battleground you would be creating by passing this bill. If you make space available for one group, you make it available for ALL of them.
2. Even if Bill 69 is as successful in bailing us out of the current budget shortfall as it is being touted, there is no going back. Whatever the real revenue (revenue minus cost of litigation) we are one monumental step closer to being surrounded by visual blight! Our natural beauty is one of our most precious resources. You cannot put a price on the destruction of our view plane like Bill 69 attempts to do.
3. Consider the door that is being opened for the next time the city needs money. It may be the next city council or the one after that but this is a game changer. What Bill 69 does is make a lot of next steps possible and history tells us that it will happen if you allow this precedent is set. Please consider the legacy you are leaving behind if you pass this bill. Can you imagine how hard it will be to resist putting billboards on our elevated rail system?
4. Consider the business and activist groups in Honolulu that have the resources to buy this kind of advertising for a moment. Think back to recent events in Honolulu, can you imagine the two sides of the same sex marriage issue having billboard wars on our buses? Attempting to legislate what is in good taste is a first amendment law suit, or several law suits, waiting to happen.

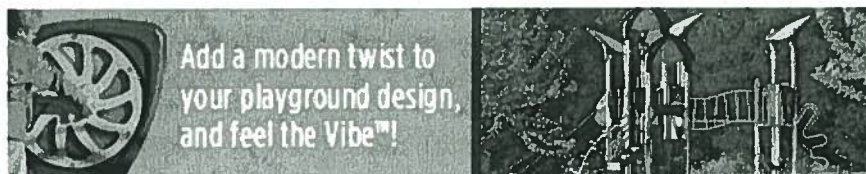
Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of how Bill 69 will change Honolulu forever. When the vote comes, please do the right thing and vote down Bill 69.

Sincerely,

Mike McFarlane

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